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Title: Need to construct mega drinking water projects under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme in Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the growing problem of fluoride contamination in drinking water that has assumed gigantic problem in Odisha and particularly in Patripal PS of Remuna Block in my constituency, Balasore. Odisha is one of the higher fluoride affected states in the country. The contamination in the backward villages has caused crippling diseases and made agriculture, which is also the mainstay of the people, difficult. While the Government of Odisha has indeed launched projects to curb this menace, additional help from the centre is required. I would urge the Government to take steps to build mega drinking water projects in Remuna, along the lines of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund assistance promised for Nuapada, and also mega drinking water projects for Balasore under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.